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communicating with a communications network and acquiring at least one of customer information associated with copper line pairs, service information associated with copper line pairs, and status information associated with a Digital Loop Carrier; storing the acquired information; combining the stored information; and automatically predicting proactive maintenance based upon the combined information.

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18. (amended) A computer-readable medium on which is encoded computer program code for proactively maintaining a telephone system; comprising:
computer program code for communicating with a communications network and acquiring status information associated with a Digital Loop Carrier; and
computer program code for predicting proactive maintenance based upon the status information.

19. (amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 18, further comprising program code for combining the status information with information from a Dynamic Network Analyzer.

20. (amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 18, further comprising program code for combining the status information with information from a Loop Facilities and Control System.

II. REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed May 3, 2002, please consider the following remarks:

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-16 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,790,633 to Kinser, jr. et al. (hereinafter "Kinser"). Claims 4, 17 and 19-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kinser in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353,902 to Kulatunge et al. (hereinafter

Carrier Info

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- ① Loop test
- ② history Information
- ③ trouble ticket
- ④ Identification of a loop requiring service

⑤ Signification of annual inspections